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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT Soviet Artillery Tactics

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. All regulations prescribing tactics and technique for artillery were contained in the Infantry Combat Doctrine manual (Boevoy Ustav Pekhoty) Parts I and II, 1946 edition, and the Program of Training manual (Programma Tekticheskoy Podgotovki). [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] they were classified Secret.

2. In all instances, 57 mm AT artillery was placed under the command of supported tactical troops up to, and including battalion. One hundred 20 mm howitzers were placed under direct command of supported tactical troops at regimental level prior to the attack. In all other instances the artillery remained under the direct command of division headquarters.

3.

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4. Direct fire was used very often, but only in the front lines. The weapons used for direct fire were the 37 mm and 85 mm AA guns and the 57 mm and 100 mm AT guns. [REDACTED]
 25X1 [REDACTED] the last named weapon [REDACTED] had not been issued to troops stationed in the Soviet Zone of Austria. [REDACTED] the 85 mm AA gun was used for direct fire missions only on very rare occasions, because of the high cost of the projectile.

5. [REDACTED] Reinforcing artillery [REDACTED] moved into firing positions about 12 hours prior to a contemplated attack. Soviet artillery started its firing mission 40 to 60 minutes prior to a contemplated attack. Other weapons, such as mortars, also started firing in conjunction with artillery [REDACTED]

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6. The Methods of Artillery Fire Preparation manual (Posobiye Ognevoy Podgotovki), and the manuals listed above /paragraph 1/ prescribed the methods of fire control. The officer in charge of the unit to which the artillery was attached was the person responsible for making the decision with respect to the number of guns and rounds of ammunition and the type of ammunition that should be employed against a particular target. That officer also decided whether or not to fire on a particular target.

7. The Methods of Artillery Fire Preparation manual, and the manuals listed above /paragraph 1/, prescribed the training, functioning and examination of forward observers. The forward artillery observer was assisted by three privates. [redacted] all observations made by the artillery observer were reported directly to the artillery battery.

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25X1 8. [redacted] all communications in connection with artillery were made by radio. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

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